

**RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, November 6, 2015
RIDOA, Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

APPROVED MINUTES

I. Attendance

1. Members Present

Mr. Michael DeLuca, Vice Chair	Town of Narragansett
Mr. Jared Rhodes, Secretary	RI Statewide Planning Program
Mr. John Chambers	Fuss & O'Neill, Incorporated
Ms. Ashley Hahn	Town of Exeter
Mr. Thomas Kogut	RI Public Utilities Commission
Ms. Eliza Lawson	RI Department of Health
Ms. Lisa Primiano	RI Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Arnold Robinson	Roger Williams University
Ms. Jennifer Siciliano	City of Woonsocket
Mr. Jeffrey Willis	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Ronald Wolanski	Town of Middletown

2. Members Absent

Mr. Bob Azar, Chair	City of Providence
Mr. Steve Devine	RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Nicole LaFontaine	Town of North Kingstown
Ms. Nancy Letendre	Mason & Associates, Incorporated
Mr. Michael Walker	RI Commerce Corporation

3. Staff Present

Ms. Kimberly Crabill	RI Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Kirsten Bryan	RI Statewide Planning Program

4. Guests Present

Ms. Teresa Crean	URI Coastal Resource Center/RI Sea Grant
Mr. Grover Fugate	RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Malcolm Spaulding	URI/Ocean Engineering

II. Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair DeLuca called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of October 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes – for action

Vice-Chair DeLuca asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 2, 2015. Mr. Willis moved to approve and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wolanski. There was no discussion. The

following members voted aye DeLuca, Chambers, Hahn, Kogut, Lawson, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Siciliano, Willis and Wolanski. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items – *for discussion*

There was none.

4. STORMTOOLS Informational Presentation – *for discussion*

Vice-Chairman DeLuca introduced Grover Fugate, Malcolm Spaulding and Teresa Crean who delivered an informational presentation on STORMTOOLS (see attachment 1). Instances where the Committee engaged in discussion were as follows:

Mr. DeLuca asked Mr. Spaulding to clarify why there was a 3' drop in flooding elevations reported between the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) 2011 and 2013 flood insurance rate maps. In response, Mr. Spaulding explained that the drop in elevation did not appear to be relative to anything that was occurring in the natural world but was rather being driven by a change in the underlying methodology that was being used to predict the extent of flooding.

Mr. Wolanski next asked if this was a concern just along the south shore or if it also pertained to areas within the Bay. Mr. Spaulding responded that there is a concern within the Bay, but that it is the opposite of that found along the southern coast. In his opinion the 2013 Bay methodology overestimates flooding elevations particularly relative to the effect of storm surge amplification.

Mr. DeLuca then asked if the NFIP was going to take these concerns and the STORMTOOLS outputs under advisement. Mr. Spaulding responded that he reported the information to NFIP but did not know if it was being acted upon.

Mr. Willis departed at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. DeLuca next asked Mr. Fugate if a house built in a flood zone with a foot of freeboard is required to carry flood insurance. Mr. Fugate responded that it would only if it were federally financed. Mr. Fugate then went on to further explain that regardless of the financing status of the structure, the more freeboard you can provide the lower the insurance costs will be, and the more resilient the structure will remain in the face of pending sea level rise.

There being no further discussion, Mr. DeLuca commended the CRMC team for their work and thanked them for taking the time to share it with the Committee.

5. 2016 Meeting Schedule - *for action*

Vice-Chair DeLuca asked for a motion to approve the draft 2016 meeting schedule. Mr. Robinson moved to approve and the motion was seconded by Ms. Siciliano. There was no further discussion. The following members voted aye DeLuca, Chambers, Hahn, Kogut, Lawson, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Siciliano, and Wolanski. Mr. Willis did not vote. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

6. Associate Director's Report – *for discussion*

Mr. Rhodes addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Upcoming Coffee hour being held in honor of Kevin Flynn's pending retirement.
- Current Statewide Planning Program staffing vacancies
- The FY 17-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process

Under discussion Mr. DeLuca asked if the TIP Solicitation process would allow for communities to submit projects that are not part of RIDOT's Ten Year Plan and to prioritize what it thinks is most important. Mr. Rhodes responded that it would.

7. Announcements

There were none.

8. Adjourn

Vice-Chairman DeLuca called for a motion to adjourn. Committee member Hahn made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Committee member Robinson. There was no further discussion. The following members voted aye DeLuca, Chambers, Hahn, Kogut, Lawson, Primiano, Rhodes, Robinson, Siciliano, and Wolanski. Mr. Willis did not vote. There were no nay votes, abstentions or recusals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jared L. Rhodes, II
Secretary